

PERCY WIND

GRAINGER BAND FESTIVAL

March 11 - 12, 2016
April 1 - 2, 2016



"...in the folk-song there is to be found the complete history of a people, recorded by the race itself, through the heartoutbursts of its healthiest output. It is a history compiled with deeper feeling and more understanding than can be found among the dates and data of the greatest historian..."

-Percy Aldridge Grainger

Percy Grainger

The 7th annual Percy Grainger Wind Band Festival will feature four outstanding wind ensembles conducting stand-alone performances of Percy Grainger literature in an afternoon matinee performance in Chicago's Historic Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center. Each participating ensemble will also take part in a clinic with Col. Arnald D. Gabriel during the March 2016 event, and with Dr. Dennis M. Layendecker in the April 2016 event.

All band selections are made through Music Celebrations, and every effort will be made to ensure that each ensemble's program will not overlap onto one another.

Ensembles will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve, rolling basis. Early applicants are given preference and priority.



For nearly the first fourteen years of its history, the Chicago Orchestra performed at the Auditorium Theatre (completed in 1889). Orchestra Hall—the long-standing dream of Theodore Thomas—was designed by CSO trustee and Chicago architect Daniel H. Burnham and completed in 1904, at a cost of \$750,000. The dedicatory concert, led by Thomas, was held on December 14 of that year.

Orchestra Hall has been host for a variety of performances and presentations since its dedication in 1904. During its first fifty years, Orchestra Hall was the regular home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as well as the Apollo Mu-

sical Club, the Mendelssohn Club of Chicago, the Chicago Business Men's Symphony, the Commonwealth Edison Orchestra, and the Marshall Field Choral Society. Mayors Richard M. Daley, Jr. and Harold Washington both were inaugurated during ceremonies held at Orchestra Hall. In addition, the Hall has hosted countless lectures (including Amelia Earhart, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King, Jr.); movies; commencement ceremonies; billiards tournaments, religious services; suffrage and other political rallies; and visiting orchestras, choruses, and dance companies from all over the world.

FESTIVAL TOUR ITINERARY

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 | MARCH 31, 2016

- Arrive in Chicago, where you will meet your tour manager who will be with you each day during your tour
- Take a motorcoach city tour of Historic Downtown and the Loop
- Check-in to the hotel
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Return to the hotel for overnight



FRIDAY, MARCH 11 | APRIL 1

- Breakfast at Corner Bakery
- Visit the Field Museum of Natural History
- Lunch, on own
- **Participate in a clinic with the festival clinician**
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Evening tour of Willis (Sears) Tower, including a visit to its SkyDeck, or the John Hancock Building, including a visit to 360 Chicago
- Return to the hotel for overnight



SATURDAY, MARCH 12 | APRIL 2

- Breakfast at Corner Bakery
- Participate in a sound check and rehearsal in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center
- Visit the Museum of Science and Industry or the Art Institute of Chicago
- Lunch, on own
- **Percy Grainger Wind Band Festival Performance in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center**
- Dinner at a local restaurant
- Free time to spend at the Navy Pier attractions
- Return to the hotel for overnight



SUNDAY, MARCH 13 | APRIL 3

- Breakfast at Corner Bakery
- Hotel check-out
- Time for sightseeing and shopping, as time permits
- Afternoon departure for home



ABOUT PERCY GRAINGER



Percy Aldridge Grainger was born in Brighton, Australia, and is best remembered as a pianist of great skill and a composer of many memorable tunes for piano.

The arrangement and compositional skills shown in his settings of many folk songs collected by him, as well as his original works for wind ensembles, are still considered pinnacles of achievement.

Grainger composed literature for winds - especially with an emphasis on the saxophone. He wrote a series of "Hillsongs," arranged many Scottish folk songs, and perhaps is best known for his wind band masterpiece, Lincolnshire Posy - which is based on a collection of folksongs Grainger collected in Lincolnshire, England.

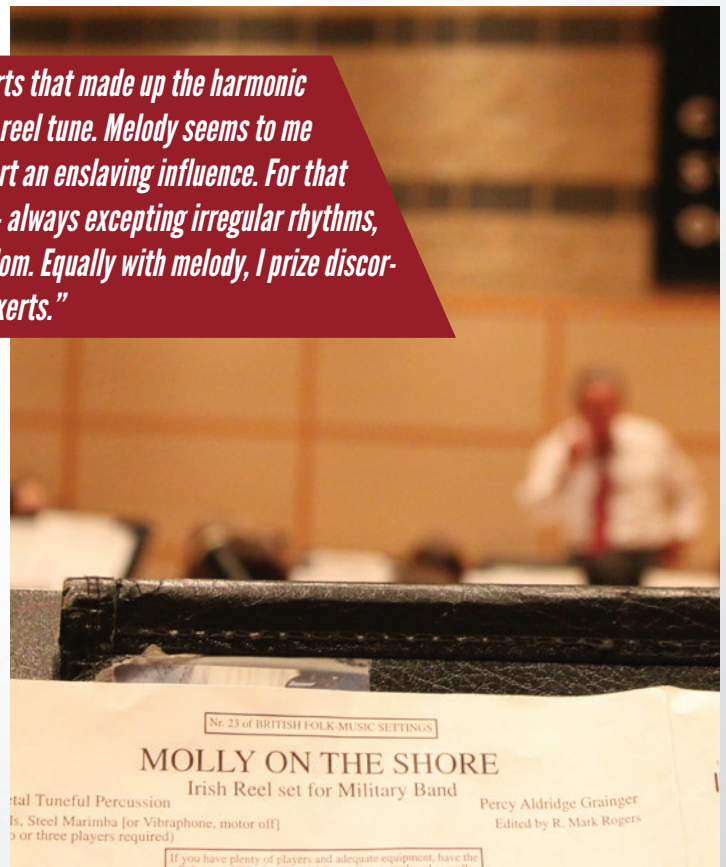
Grainger would often compose his music purposely out of tune or time in order to recreate the effect of the inaccurate and imprecise folksongs.

In his own program notes about Lincolnshire Posy, Grainger wrote:

"Why this cold-shouldering of the wind band by most composers? Is the wind band, with its varied assortments of reeds, so much richer than the reeds of the symphony orchestra, its complete saxophone family that is found nowhere else (to my ears the saxophone is the most expressive of all wind instruments - the one closest to the human voice. And surely all musical instruments should be rated according to their tonal closeness to man's own voice!), its army of brass, both wide-bore and narrow-bore, not the equal of any medium ever conceived? As a vehicle of deeply emotional expression it seems to be unrivalled."

In a letter to Frederick Fennell, Grainger said that:

"In setting Molly on the Shore, I strove to imbue the accompanying parts that made up the harmonic texture with a melodic character not too unlike that of the underlying reel tune. Melody seems to me to provide music with initiative; whereas rhythm appears to me to exert an enslaving influence. For that reason I have tried to avoid regular rhythmic domination in my music - always excepting irregular rhythms, such as those of Gregorian Chant, which seem to me to make for freedom. Equally with melody, I prize discordant harmony, because of the emotional and compassionate sway it exerts."



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